DC

LEGENDARY COMICS

THE KING OF SKULL ISLAND ENTERS THE BATTLE!

JUSTICE LEAGUE VS. GODZILLA VS. KONG #3

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The earth-shattering crossover event continues.

December

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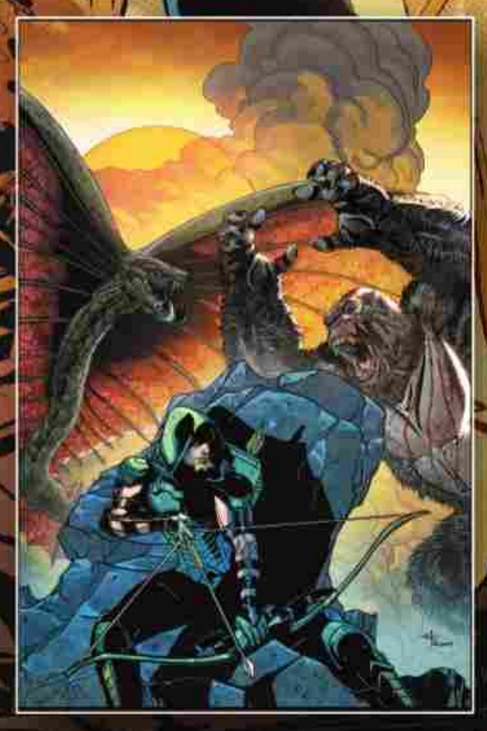

Justice League vs. Godzilla vs. Kong #3
Main cover by Drew Johnson

DANGER STREET

BOOK TWELVE

CHAPTER 12: STARMAN

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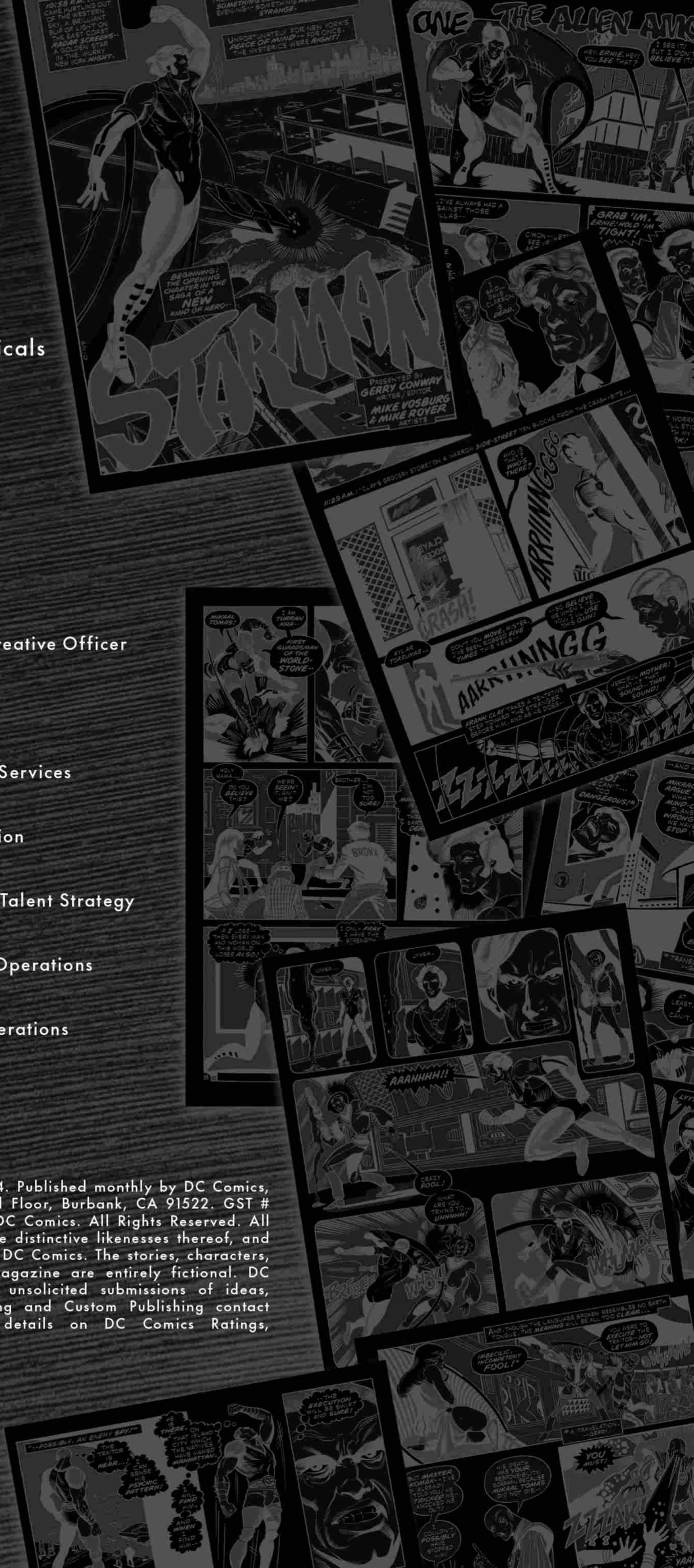

STARMAN
BEGINNING: THE OPENING CHAPTER IN THE SAGA OF A NEW KIND OF HERO...
PRESENTED BY
GERRY CONWAY
MIKE VOSBURG & MIKE ROYER
ARTISTS
ONE
THE ALIEN AMK
HEY, ERNIE, HEY, YOU SEE THAT?
I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
GRAB 'IM, ERNIE! HOLD 'IM TIGHT!
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A SAINT THOSE
C'MON - LET'S SEE IS
SAID... BULLET CLASSON IS DEAD.
11:29 P.M. : CLAY'S GROCERY STORE ON A NARROW SIDE-STREET TEN BLOCKS FROM THE CRASH-SITE...
WHO IS THAT? WHO'S THERE?
CRASH!
ARRIVINGGG
DON'T YOU MOVE, MISTER. THIS BEEN ROBBED FIVE TIMES THIS YEAR...
SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU I'LL USE THIS GUN!
KYLAR TORRUMAE...
AAKRUNINGG
FRANK CLAY TAKES A TENTATIVE STEP TOWARD THE STRANGER BEFORE HIM... AND AS HE DOES...
MIKKAEL TOMAS!
I AM TURRAN KHE... FIRST GUARDSMAN OF THE WORLD-STONE...
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?
SEEIN' T'AIN'T WET
I'M NOT TOO SURE!
BROWA
HOLY MARIA...
WE'RE
BROTHER...
MUNDANE
THERE EARTH
OH...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO... UNNNHH!
KRIEE
WHO?
DANGEROUS!!
WRONG
WE HAVE
STOP!
IF I LOSE-- THEN EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ON THIS WORLD LOSES ALSO!
I ONLY PRAY I HAVE THE STRENGTH!
LYSSA...
LYSSA.
AAAHHHH!!
CRAZY FOOL!
AT LEAST I CAN'T
TRANSMIT
AND THOUGH THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN RESEMBLES NO EARTH TONGUE, THE MEANING WILL BE ALL TOO CLEAR...
YOU HERE TO EXECUTE THE TRAITOR--NOT LET HIM GO!
IMBECILIC, INCOMPETENT FOOL!
A TRANSLATOR--GEE!
HE IS THERE- ON THAT ISLAND CITY WHICH THE NATIVES HAVE NAMED MANHATTAN...
...POSSIBLY, AN ENEMY SPY!
THE TRAITOR IS NEAR... I CAN SENSE HIS PSYCHIC PATTERN!
I WILL FIND HIM...
AND WHEN I FIND HIM--
...THE EXECUTION WILL BE SWIFT AND SURE!
HIS DEATH WAS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY GORBIN, BECAUSE MIKAEL TOMAS DID NOT DIE...
YOU MUST!
ZZZZOOOM
YAR
MASTER KUMAR--I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU TRICKED ME-- TRICKED ME OUT!
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE BUNGLED HIM!

AND NOW...

...WE *CONCLUDE!*

INSIDE THE BELLY OF A BEAST, THROUGH THE MAGIC OF FATE...

...THE DIAMOND SWORD OF A GREAT KNIGHT HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO THE ARM OF A PRINCE!

FURTHER, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE SHOCKING, THE ARM WAS ALIVE...

...AND WAS HURRIEDLY MAKING ITS WAY UP THE THROAT OF THE GREAT BEAST.

MUCH TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE ROGUES AND MONSTERS ALREADY SETTLED IN THE BEAST'S LONG METAL GUT.

HEY, YOU SEE THAT?!

THE ARM OF THE PRINCE PAID NO ATTENTION TO THESE EXCLAMATIONS AND CONTINUED ON ITS MERRY WAY.

UP AND THROUGH IT CLIMBED, UNTIL IT WAS SCRATCHING AT THE VERY MOUTH OF THE LEVIATHAN, TICKLING ITS PALATE.

AND THEN! A GREAT AND POTENT SNEEZE!

CKCHNK

THE ANIMAL OPENED ITS MOUTH, AND THE WORLD OUTSIDE CAME INTO VIEW!

AND AS HAPPENS AT THE END OF ALL THE GREAT STORIES...

...WHAT WAS ONCE LOST NOW CHEERFULLY HURRIED HOME.

BACK INSIDE THE BEAST, THE ROGUES HELD FAST TO THEIR ASTONISHMENT, NOT YET KNOWING THAT AN EVEN GREATER JOLT LAY IN WAIT FOR THEM.

LIZARD JOHNNY, WAS THAT *YOUR* ARM?

CAN THEY WALK NOW? I MEAN, AFTER THEY FALL OFF? I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY AFTER THAT, I MEAN.

FOR THE MAGIC THAT TRANSFORMED A SWORD HAD OTHER EFFECTS AS WELL.

MARY...

...YOUR...

HOLY POOP-A-LOOP! *MARY!* YOUR *ARMS!*

THE MONSTERS AND ROGUES WHO WERE NEAR THAT PECULIAR TRANSUBSTANTIATION, WHO WERE TOUCHED BY ITS WARMTH, FOUND THEMSELVES ALSO CHANGED.

MY... WHAT?

AS WITH THE WEAPON, THEY TOO HAD REVERTED TO AN EARLIER STATE OF BEING.

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH MY...

...ARMS...

THAT IS, AFTER ALL, THE TRUE SECRET OF MAGIC.

GUYS... IT'S...

THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS SPELLS REACH FAR BEYOND THEIR INITIAL INTENTIONS.

I HAVE *HANDS.*

NOT FAR AWAY AT ALL, MORE REVELATIONS AND REVIVALS ABOUNDED.

TRAVIS?

STAR!

LOOK AT *YOU.*

YOU'RE *ALIVE.*

SHOULDN'T I BE?

LATER, IN EVERY CORNER OF THE CASTLE, EMINENCES WERE ARGUING THE FATE OF THE COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN THEIR DOMAIN.

WE CANNOT *WASTE* TIME! ALL OF EXISTENCE IS BEING *CRUSHED* BENEATH ITS OWN WEIGHT!

THE SOUL OF *ATLAS* WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE BOY AS ONLY *ATLAS* CAN. THE BOY MUST GO TO THE *FULCRUM* AND HOLD THE SKY!

IT'S *ONE* IN THE MORNING.

I NEED ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE. *YOU* WANT ONE?

DO YOU REALIZE THE *AGONY* IS NEAR?!

THE SKY HAS NO *MERCY* FOR GODS OR MEN!

Darkseid is.

THE KID'S *JUST* COME BACK FROM THE DEAD, AND YOU WANT ME TO YANK HIM FROM HIS FRIENDS AND TELL HIM HE HAS TO SPEND THE REST OF...

HE HAS TO GO FAR AWAY WITH THE BURDEN OF *EVERYTHING* ON HIS SHOULDERS?

GIVE HIM A *SECOND.*

YOU DO NOT *COMPREHEND!* OR YOU DO NOT HEAR!

THE *SKY* HAS NO MERCY FOR *GODS* OR *MEN!*

Darkseid is.

POLICE

÷SIGH÷ LOOK, ORION, WAS IT?

I BELIEVE YOU.

THERE'S NO MERCY OUT THERE FOR GODS AND MEN.

BUT I'M NOT A GOD. AND I'M NOT A MAN.

I'M #≈€%∞#@ LADY COP.

AND I'M GETTING A GODDAMN CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE I TALK TO THAT KID.

HM.

YOU REMIND ME OF MOTHER.

SHE TOO WAS STUBBORN.

JESUS, WHAT IS WRONG WITH EVERYONE?

I'M NOT STUBBORN.

EVERYTHING IS INSANE, AND I'M JUST #≈€%∞#@ TIRED.

AS THE PRINCESS DECLARED HER MOOD, THE LOYAL LADS ENJOYED THEIR FIRST REUNION IN MANY A HARD-FOUGHT DAY.

SO... *DAMN.*

WERE THERE, LIKE, ANGELS AND @#!$ OR WHAT?

...NO.

IT WAS MOSTLY...I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T *REMEMBER* MUCH.

THERE *WAS,* LIKE, THIS ONE LADY WITH A, LIKE, WITH ONE OF THOSE *THICK* CROSSES AROUND HER NECK. SHE WAS HOT. WE HAD A TIME, Y'KNOW.

HAHAHA.

ONLY *GOOD LOOKS* COULD GO TO THE AFTERLIFE AND *IMMEDIATELY* HOOK UP.

HEH.

KRUNCH!

WHERE THE Ø$%ʃ YOU GET THOSE GRAPES?!

WHAT?

IT'S A *KITCHEN.*

WHAT THE Ø$%ʃ?

IT'S NOT *YOUR* KITCHEN!

HAHA HAHA HAHA HA!

KRUNCH...

HAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHAH

GUYS.

I *DIED,* MAN. I WAS DEAD.

AND I CAME *ALL* THE WAY BACK.

AND YOU #≈ξ%∞#@ *DINGBATS* HAVEN'T CHANGED AN INCH.

HOLY @%#, I'M *HOME.*

FROM ONE EPIPHANY TO ANOTHER, FOR BACK IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST, THE MONSTER RECOGNIZED THAT THE CHAINS THAT BOUND HIM HAD FALLEN AWAY.

AND HE WAS SUDDENLY, COMPLETELY FREE.

THAT'S IT, YOU ***FREAKS!*** WITHOUT YOUR... YOUR ***FREAK,*** YOU HAVE...YOU GOT ***NOTHING*** AT ALL ON ME!

YOU'RE ALL ***STUPID*** AND POWERLESS!

IT WAS THAT LIGHT THAT CAME FROM THE SWORD. ***MUST*** HAVE BEEN.

YEAH.

IT GOT BRIGHT AND THEN PRESTO CHANGE-O AND THEN THIS. IT'S SO CRAZY, RIGHT? JEEZ.

YEAH.

GUYS...

DID...DID YOU ***FREAKS*** HEAR ME?

IT'S THE ***BEST!*** IT'S BETTER THAN THE BEST! WHAT'S THE ***WORD*** FOR THAT?

BESTER!

WORKS FOR ME. ***BESTER.*** TOTALLY BESTER.

OH, Ø$%ʃ YOU GUYS.

I'M GOING TO TALK TO THE PILOTS AND GET YOUR FREAK @%Π€#Ə KICKED OFF ***MY*** PLANE.

BACK AT THE PRINCESS'S CASTLE, THE OGRE WALLOWED IN HIS GUILT, FOR HE COULD NOT HELP BUT REMEMBER THE ROGUES HE HAD FAILED TO AID.

YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SUPERHERO, RIGHT?

OR RATHER, THAT HE *THOUGHT* HE HAD FAILED TO AID.

WHAT?

THE UNIVERSE IS *TEARING,* AND WE NEED TO TRANSPORT THE SOUL OF ATLAS TO THE *FULCRUM* OF THE CLOUDS, OR ELSE ALL THAT IS WILL NEVER BE!

AND THAT *WOMAN* IS GETTING COFFEE!

PERHAPS *YOU* COULD HELP.

DON'T YOU WATCH *GTN TV?*

EVERY NIGHT AT *TEN* AND *ONE.*

HELP IS FOR SUCKERS AND LOSERS.

I AM A *GOD.*

I NEITHER *SUCK* NOR *LOSE.*

AWESOME FOR YOU, *PAL.* PERSONALLY, *I* LIKE TO DO BOTH.

I MADE *BIG* MONEY AND *BIG* MISTAKES, AND I HAD A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF, FOR THESE KIDS, THESE *OUTSIDERS,* AND...

...AND INSTEAD, I GOT *SELFISH* AGAIN, AND I GOT *SHOT,* AND I GOT *REVIVED,* AND NOW THE HELMET I NEED... HAVE YOU SEEN THE HELMET?

I'M NOT A *SUPERHERO.*

YOU SEE?

I'M A *CELEBRITY.*

LISTEN!

HEY, WHAT?!

I WAS ONCE WHERE YOU ARE.

DROWNED IN SELF-PITY. RESIGNED TO THE EVIL OF THE WORLD.

WITH FAITH IN FATE AND NOT IN GODS.

HM. YOU KNOW WHAT? I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE BREATH OF THE DIVINE WOULD BE LESS...

...ALCOHOLIC.

I HAVE SEEN DEAD MEN COME TO LIFE.

I HAVE SEEN THE SOUL OF ATLAS RISE FROM THE FLOOR. I HAVE SEEN YOUR BLOOD DRY.

I HAVE WITNESSED MIRACLES.

SO Ø$%ʃ FATE.

THE GODS ARE REAL AND THEY ARE US.

AND WE SHALL BE WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP.

AND AS THE SON OF DRAGONS AVOWED HIS DESTINY, A MONSTER FLED FROM HIS OWN PARTICULAR FORTUNE.

Ø$%ſ YOU!

Ø$%ſ.

THAT WENT WELL?

SLAM!

TALKED TO THE PILOTS. HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR PHONE?!

FEDS HAVE SEIZED ALL OF GT'S ASSETS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDERS OF OUR TWO... PARTNERS...

THEY HAVE WARRANTS OUT ON THE WHOLE BOARD. FOR FRAUD AND...AND, LIKE, SO MANY OTHER THINGS.

I CAN'T CALL OUR LAWYERS. WE HAVE NO MONEY TO PAY THEM!

OUR STOCK IS IN THE TOILET. AND SO ARE WE.

WE'RE ALL #≈€%∞#@ FLOATING IN #≠$ AND WAITING TO GET FLUSHED!

I...I KNOW, MAN. I DID CHECK MY PHONE.

IT'S JUST, Y'KNOW, I ALREADY GOT KICKED OUT OF THE COMPANY, SO I DIDN'T LOSE ANYTHING. I MEAN, YOU'RE THE BOARD.

AND THE CHARGES ACTUALLY COME FROM ME. I TURNED STATE'S EVIDENCE, LIKE, TWO SECONDS AFTER YOU TRIED TO KILL ME.

SO...I'M GOOD.

BUT DON'T BE SO *WORRIED,* MAN.

IT CAN'T BE *THAT* BAD.

I MEAN, THEY CAN'T THROW THE *BOOK* AT YOU OR ANYTHING.

YOU'RE STILL A *MINOR.*

ANYWAY, WE SHOULD PROBABLY ALL GET *OFF* THE PLANE.

IT'S NOT *OURS* ANYMORE.

AAAAAAAAAAAA

WE TURN FROM THAT MONSTER'S MAD YAWP TO THE SAD LONGING OF A ONCE-LOST PRINCE.

AND TO THE GREAT BURDENS OF OUR PRECIOUS PRINCESS.

=SIGH=

FOR EVEN AS THE PRINCE'S HOPE WAS SPARKED...

OH, HEY... *THERE* YOU ARE.

...THE PRINCESS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS.

GOOD LOOKS, CAN WE TALK? IN *PRIVATE.*

OVER *HERE.* WON'T TAKE A MOMENT.

AND ISN'T THAT ETERNALLY THE METHOD OF MYTHS?

AS IF HAPPINESS ITSELF CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT MISERY AT THE DOOR.

LADY COP. PLEASE. THERE'S NO PRIVACY BETWEEN *DINGBATS.*

WE ARE... *INDIVISIBLE.*

BEEN A WHILE.

YOU OKAY?

YEAH, YOU SEEM OKAY.

WELL. I THINK WE PROBABLY SHOULD GET ON WITH IT.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DILLYDALLY.

MISSED YOU TOO, BUDDY.

HEH HEH.

YEAH, SAME. TICKLES. HEH.

HEY NOW...

AIN'T THAT *PRETTY!*

WITHIN A STONE'S THROW, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PALACE, THE PRINCESS HAD GATHERED THE FOUR LADS OUTSIDE, AWAY FROM THE CROWD.

AND HERE SHE GAVE THEM THE NEWS THAT ONE OF THEIR OWN MUST NOW DEPART FOREVER.

WHAT?

@%Δ#$≈Ø!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT *WE--*

YOU *CAN'T* TAKE HIM AWAY! YOU...

IT'S... YOU...HE'S NOT *THEIRS!* HE'S *OURS!* HE'S *DANGER STREET!*

SKINNY

I *KNOW.*

IT'S NOT ANYTHING *I* WANT TO DO. BUT THEY'RE SAYING IF WE DON'T...IT'S *ALL* GONE.

THE UNIVERSE. THE WORLD. *DANGER STREET.* ALL OF IT. IT...HAS TO BE *SAVED.*

SAVING @#!$, WHO #≈£%∞#@ CARES?!

HE'S NOT A *HERO!* WE'RE KIDS! WE DID *ENOUGH!*

SKINNY

YOU WANT A #≈£%∞#@ *SAVED* DAY, GET #≈£%∞#@ *SUPERMAN!*

NON-FAT... YOU DON'T THINK *I...*

...OF *ALL* PEOPLE--

SUPERMAN'S *NOT* COMING.

THE FEMALE CONSTABLE IS CORRECT.

IT'S JUST *US.*

NO, IT'S *ONLY* YOU.

Darkseid

NO...NO... I WAS JUST... I CAN'T...I'M SORRY.

I DON'T WANT TO BE *ALONE* AGAIN.

PLEASE.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS @#≠$ TO HIM!

YOU #≈€%∞#@ AREN'T ALLOWED!

BUT, *UH,* WHAT IF, Y'KNOW...

...MAYBE *WE* WENT WITH HIM?

KRUNCH...

...WHAT THE *Ø$%ſ?!*

I MEAN, IF GOOD LOOKS HAS TO SPEND, LIKE, ALL OF TIME *HOLDING* UP THE SKY...

...WE COULD GO THERE *TOO,* AND, LIKE, I DON'T KNOW...

...KEEP HIM *COMPANY,* AT LEAST.

YOU BEEN POURING *GLUE* IN YOUR CEREAL *AGAIN?*

DUDE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, BRING THE *PS5* AND SOME *COMICS* AND @#≠$...

...AND JUST PLAY AND Ø$%ſ AROUND FOR THE REST OF INFINITY?

I *GUESS.* BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND HERE *WITHOUT* GOOD LOOKS.

DANGER STREET IS *OKAY.* BUT IT'S NOT DANGER STREET WITHOUT ALL *YOU* GUYS.

IT'S JUST, Y'KNOW, A *STREET* I WALK DOWN SOMETIMES WHEN I'M GETTING SOME GRAPES.

WHAT. THE. ACTUAL. *Ø$%ſ?!*

SKINNY

IT *COULD* BE DONE, BUT IT *CAN'T* BE DONE.

MOTHER BOX *WOULD* GRACE YOU WITH THE POWER TO TRAVEL AND STAY WITH THE *ATLAS SOUL.*

HOWEVER, MY DEVICE IS NOT... I *PREVIOUSLY* DID NOT...

IT LACKS *ENERGY.* AND WE *LACK* TIME.

I...

THERE IS...*I* HAVE ENERGY.

I CAN HELP.

DON'T ASK *ME.* I'M NOT TRYING TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT *AGAIN.*

IT'S LIFE AND SOMETIMES YOU LEARN *LESSONS.*

HE KNOWS WHO *HE* IS, AND SO DO I.

NO, Ø$%ʃ NO!

DO YOU *HEAR* ME?!

NO!

THE *CREEPY* MAN IS RIGHT.

WE *ARE* SUPERMAN.

ON A ROAD NOT FAR FROM THE CASTLE, TWO MONSTERS WALKED IN TANDEM, REMEMBERING THE OLD TIMES, WHEN THE WORLD FEARED THEIR TREMENDOUS POWER.

YOU SHOULD'VE GONE WITH *THEM.* WHEREVER THOSE *FREAKS* ARE HEADED.

YOU LIKE *THEM* MORE.

I TALKED A LOT TO THAT *MANHUNTER* GUY.

YOU KNOW HIS *WHOLE* ORGANIZATION WAS BUILT FOR, LIKE, TWO THOUSAND YEARS PREDICTING *US?*

THEY TRAINED, AND THEY FOUGHT FOR *MILLENNIA* TO KILL *YOU* AND *ME.* AND CECIL AND J.P.

SO I *HAD* TO ASK HIM.

WHY *US?* WE'RE JUST RICH KIDS--WHO THE *Ø$%ſ* CARES?

AND YOU KNOW WHAT *HE* SAID?

HE WAS JUST LIKE--

"*I* DON'T KNOW.

"THEY DIDN'T TELL ME *THAT* PART OF THE STORY."

AND WHEN I HEARD THAT, IT *IMMEDIATELY* REMINDED ME OF THAT *GUY.*

THE ONE WITH THE *HELMET* AT THE SCHOOLYARD. WHO GAVE US THE OFFER OR THE *BET* THING. THE DUDE WHO *MADE* US.

THE GREEN TEAM AND *THE OUTSIDERS.*

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT *HE* SAID, AFTER HE TOLD US WE WERE *RICH,* AND HE GAVE US THE HELMET AND ALL THAT @#!$ THAT CAME WITH IT?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT *HE* TOLD US HIS REASON FOR *ALL* OF IT WAS?

NO.

YEAH, MAN.

ME *NEITHER.*

I'M ABDUL.

COOL. GOING TO L.A., RIGHT?

YEAH, THANKS FOR TAKING THE TRIP.

I KNOW IT'S PRETTY FAR.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR *FRIEND?*

NAH, MAN, THAT'S NOT *MY* FRIEND.

THAT'S THE *COMMODORE.*

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HIM.* HE KNOWS HOW TO FIND A RIDE.

HE OWNED A FLEET.

WE LEAVE A HORRID MONSTER AND RETURN TO A LOYAL PRINCE AS HE SOUGHT TO GIVE SOME OF HIS WISDOM TO THE COURT.

WE DON'T ALL NEED TO BELONG EVERYWHERE.

BUT WE CAN BELONG SOMEWHERE.

THE LADS HEARD THIS ADVICE AND RESPONDED WITH THEIR OWN NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE.

GO Ø$%ʃ YOURSELF.

WOOOOOOSSSSHHHH

LOVE YOU *TOO*, DINGBATS.

I'VE GOT YOU, STAR.

DON'T *YOU* WORRY.

DID IT *WORK?*

THEY ARE *GOOD BOYS.*

SO... WHAT NOW?

WE SAVED THE DAY? SHOULD WE...

...MAYBE A *PARTY?*

STAY WHERE YOU ARE. PUT YOUR *HANDS* ABOVE YOUR HEADS.

YOU'RE ALL UNDER *ARREST.*

EXCUSE ME?

I GOT *TWO* FUGITIVES WHO BROKE OUT OF *MY* JAIL. ANOTHER WHO *STOLE* A BODY.

ANOTHER WHO EXCHANGED HIS *ARM* FOR A HELMET, THEN TOOK THE ARM BACK, WHICH I'M PRETTY SURE IS *LARCENY.*

AND A GUY WHO TRIED TO *ASSAULT* ME EARLIER THIS EVENING.

WAIT, LET ME *APOLOGIZE* FOR THAT. I DIDN'T--

EVERYONE! I WANT HANDS IN THE AIR. FINGERS *STRETCHING* TOWARD CLOUDS.

AND NO GLOWING *ENERGY* CRAP EITHER.

WELL?!

THANK YOU.

THE NEXT DAY, AFTER ALL HER CHARGES HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE DUNGEON AND TASKED TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK OUT OF THE MAZE...

...THE PRINCESS RODE HER STEED THROUGH THE HEAVY HEAT OF THE DESERT.

SO WHAT'S THAT *EXPRESSION* YOU ALWAYS HAVE?

I CAN'T *READ* IT.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE *STERN.* LIKE IT'S *JUDGING* US.

BUT IT'S NOT QUITE *HOLDING* THAT LOOK.

THE WHOLE THING SEEMS TO BE *SLIPPING* AWAY.

WHERE SHE INTENDED TO END, I DID NOT KNOW.

ALL RIGHT. JUST *YOU* AND *ME* NOW. LET'S *HAVE* IT.

I GOT ENOUGH *STORIES* FROM ENOUGH PEOPLE TO KNOW THIS IS *YOU* PUSHING EVERYONE THIS WAY AND THAT.

I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE A SIDE TO *THAT* STORY. THIS IS *YOUR* CHANCE. I'LL HEAR IT.

YOU DON'T THINK I'VE HAD *GUYS* TRY THIS WHOLE *SILENT* STRATEGY YOU'RE DOING HERE?

IT *DOESN'T* WORK. IT'S JUST *TIME* UNTIL YOU TALK. AND WE'VE GOT *ALL* THE TIME IN THE WORLD.

DIDN'T YOU GET THE NEWS? WE DID IT. THE SKY ISN'T GOING *ANYWHERE.*

I COULD HANDLE THIS THE *HARD* WAY TOO. IT'S NOT USUALLY *MY* WAY TO GO. BUT, END OF THE DAY, YOU'RE A HELMET. DIFFERENT RULES.

I COULD *SHOOT* YOU. BURY YOU. KICK YOU. BEND YOU. PAINT YOU *PURPLE.*

YOU HEAR THAT? *PURPLE.* OR, HELL, ORANGE. THINK THAT'LL *INTIMIDATE* ANYONE, THE ORANGE MAGIC FACE? YOU WANT *THAT?*

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE *SEEN?*

WHAT THE *Ø$%ſ* IS ALL OF THIS?!

EVENTUALLY, FRUSTRATED BY MY SILENCE, THE PRINCESS SANK TO THE GROUND.

@#!$.

AT WHICH POINT SHE HEARD A VOICE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FROM THE HEAVENS ABOVE.

I KNOW *THAT* LOOK. EVERYONE FEELS THAT WAY WHEN THEY'RE DEALING WITH *HIM.*

THE *GOD OF ORDER* DRIVES EVERYONE CRAZY. *EVERYTHING* IN ITS PLACE AND ALL THAT.

YOU DON'T PUT DOWN A *COASTER,* THE WORLD'S GOING TO BLOW UP.

THAT TYPE.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM *THE LORD OF CHAOS.*

AND *I* SAY IF WE RUN OUR LIVES BASED ON WHETHER WE HAVE *COASTERS* WHEN WE NEED THEM, THEN THAT'S WORSE THAN A LITTLE ROUND *STAIN.*

AND HOW MANY OF *THOSE* RINGS DO YOU ACTUALLY SEE ANYWAY? I MEAN IN THE *REAL WORLD.*

ANYWAY, IF YOU KEEP ASKING HIM @#!$, *EVENTUALLY* YOU'LL GET YOUR ANSWER.

BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO *LIKE* IT.

HE'S *JUST* GOING TO SAY--

STOP... STOP RIGHT THERE!

THAT'S...*CITY* PROPERTY!

LADY COP. C'MON.

I'M A GOD.

WOULDN'T BE MY *FIRST.*

PFFT. NEW GODS. THAT HARDLY COUNTS.

THOSE GUYS KEEP ASKING ME OUT FOR A LUNCH, AND I'M JUST... NO.

GROW UP SOME FIRST. LIVE A BIT OF LIFE. ALL THIS SWAPPING BABIES AND FIGHTING AND EQUATIONS...NO. NO LUNCH FOR YOU, WEIRDO.

SEE, IT'S DIFFERENT FOR, I DON'T WANT TO SAY OLD, BUT LET'S JUST SAY EXPERIENCED GODS, ONES WHO'VE BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK.

JUST LOOK AT ME AND ORDER. YEAH, HE'S ANNOYING, THE TOILET SEAT HAS TO BE DOWN, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO WAR OVER IT.

NO, WE GOT OTHER STUFF TO DO. ACTUAL IMPORTANT WORK.

YOU KNOW HOW MANY ATOMS ARE FLOATING OUT IN SPACE? IT'S CRAZY.

SOMETHING'S GOT TO CONNECT THEM OR THEY'LL ALL JUST GO SCURRYING OFF, JUST ALL OVER THE PLACE HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY.

AND WHERE WOULD WE BE THEN? YOU EVER THINK OF THAT?

A LADY UNDER A BED, A CRACK IN THE GROUND, AN ARM, SOME GRAPES, TWO GUYS WITH SWORDS...

CHAOS. ORDER. FATE. CHANCE.

WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, PUTTING IT TOGETHER, IT'S A REAL JOB. NOT SOME FRILLY MALARKY YOU DO ON A COSMIC SLIDE OR WHATEVER.

BUT ALL THAT IS... YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT. YOU'RE DONE.

AND YOU DID A FINE JOB, I'D SAY. ALL THAT EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS SWIRLING, BUT THERE'S A CENTER OF THINGS.

IF ANYTHING IS GOING TO WORK, SOMETHING HAS TO BE-- WHAT'S THE WORD?--SOMETHING LIKE UNMOVED, I GUESS.

STOP!

YOU ARE... JUST STOP! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST! THAT HELMET IS NOT YOURS!

IT IS... WANTED FOR QUESTIONING!

DIDN'T I... OH, RIGHT, SORRY.

I FORGOT TO TELL YOU WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY. I GOT OFF TRACK.

I DO THAT.

WELL, EVENTUALLY, IF YOU PUSHED, HE'D JUST GO...

"ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A FAR-OFF KINGDOM..."

AND FINALLY, AS IS RIGHT AND ORDERLY, WE COME HOME TO WHERE WE BEGAN.

DANGER STREET

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*

YOU CAN'T DRIVE THIS *JUNK* HERE. *YOU* KNOW THAT.

WE WANTED TO GO OUT TO THE *DUNES.* HOW ELSE WE GOING TO *GET* THERE? WALK?

I'M *HAIRY LARRY!* I USED TO DRIVE A CAR *EVERY DAY* EVERYWHERE!

C'MON, LADY COP, HAVE A HEART.

CARS

POLICE

911

DON'T...

PLEASE, *MARY.* DO NOT CALL ME *LADY COP.*

FINE. I GUESS. SO SENSITIVE.

BUT, Y'KNOW, IF YOU'RE *NOT* LADY COP, WHO *ARE* YOU?

SIGH

I AM THE CHIEF OF POLICE. BADGE NUMBER 37371001.

I AM CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THIS TOWN.

"I AM SOMEONE WHO TAKES THAT DUTY SERIOUSLY, WHO WAKES UP EVERY DAY AND GOES TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT THINKING OF HOW I CAN DO IT BETTER.

"I AM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT THE WORST PEOPLE CAN AND WILL DO AND WHO DEDICATES HERSELF TO STOPPING THEM BEFORE THEY DO IT AGAIN.

"I AM SOMEONE WHO RECOGNIZES THAT PEOPLE HAVE THE ABILITY TO GROW AND TO CHANGE AND TO BECOME BETTER.

DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN!

"AND PART OF MY JOB IS TRYING TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN EVERY DAY.

"I'M SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE SACRIFICES, AND I AM SOMEONE WHO IS CONTENT TO HAVE MADE THEM.

"I AM SOMEONE WHO IS GRATEFUL FOR THE LIFE GIVEN TO ME, AND I AM EAGER TO LIVE AS MUCH OF IT AS I CAN BEST I CAN.

"MOST IMPORTANTLY...

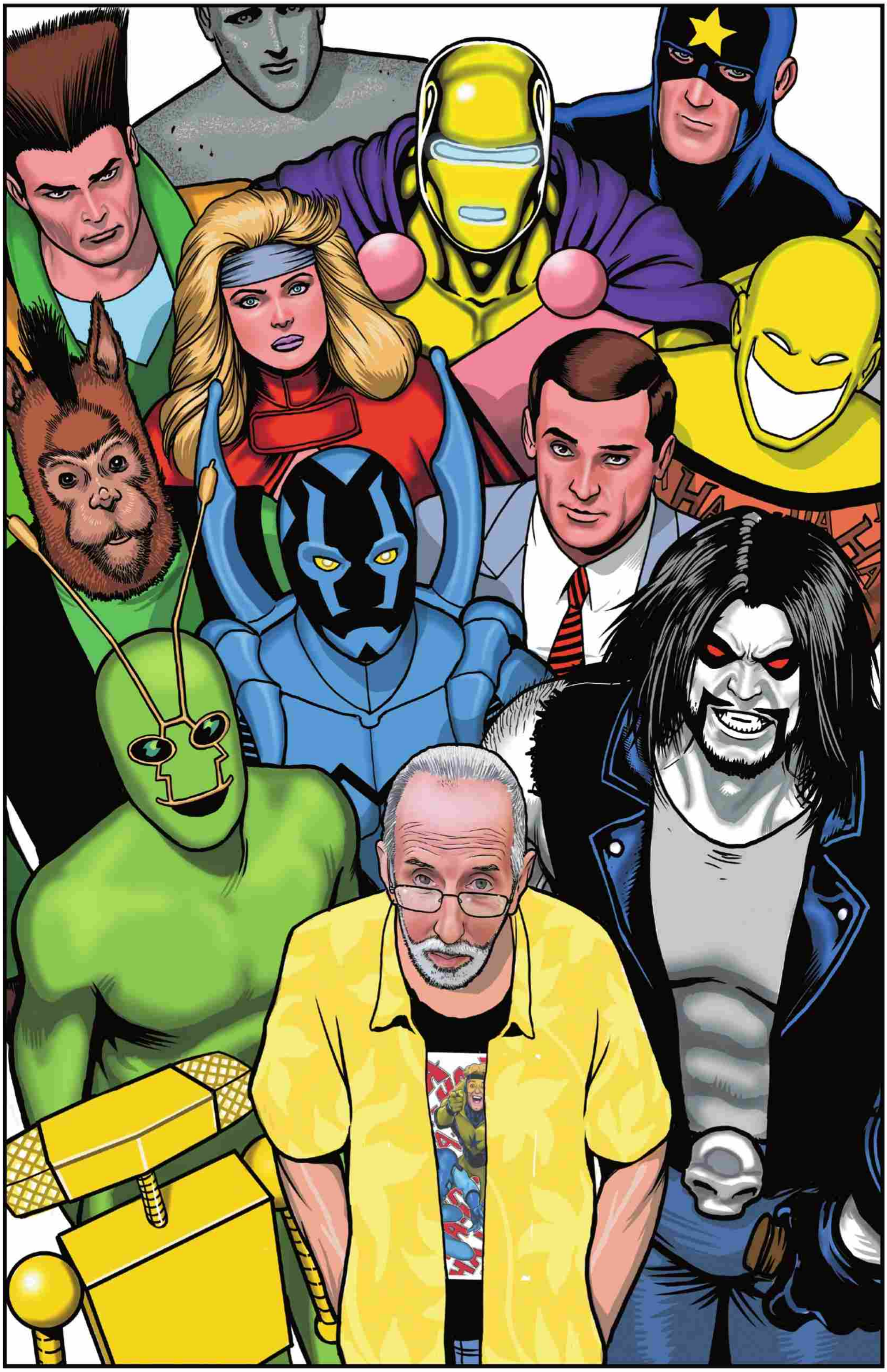
"...I AM THE ONE GIVING YOU OUTSIDERS THIS TICKET FOR DRIVING ON DANGER STREET WITHOUT A LICENSE OR A REGISTERED VEHICLE.

BEYOND THAT, YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.

AND SO WE COME TO OUR ***CONCLUSION,*** AND WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED OUR ***PETITE*** TALE OF GOOD AND EVIL AND RIGHT AND WRONG!

AND WHAT IS THE ***MORAL*** OF IT ALL, YOU MAY ASK? IT IS ***THIS*** AND ONLY THIS...

WHERE THERE ARE ***GODS,*** THERE ARE ***PRINCESSES,*** AND WHERE THERE ARE ***PRINCESSES,*** THERE ARE ***STORIES,*** AND WHERE THERE ARE ***STORIES,*** THERE ARE NOBLE PEOPLE WHO, ***OCCASIONALLY,*** LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



KEITH GIFFEN

1952 - 2023

KEITH GIFFEN WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANTLY CREATIVE HUMANS EVER TO WORK IN COMICS, THE JACK KIRBY OF MY GENERATION OF CREATORS. HE WAS A CURMUDGEON WITH A HEART OF GOLD. AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND. AND, AS MY WIFE OBSERVED, "HE WAS LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A KEITH GIFFEN STORY." SAFE TRAVELS, KEITH. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

–J.M. DeMATTEIS

KEITH WAS A CREATIVE FORCE OF NATURE, GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO BOLDLY AND ENDLESSLY PULL HIS CREATIONS FROM A BLANK PAGE AS WE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT. HE EFFORTLESSLY CONJURED STORIES FROM SOME MYSTICAL PLACE, WITH RAZOR-SHARP WIT THAT WOULD HAVE YOU SMILING ONE MOMENT AND SOCK YOU IN THE GUT THE NEXT. KEITH, WE HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

–HOWARD PORTER

KEITH GIFFEN'S BRILLIANCE AS BOTH WRITER AND ARTIST IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE INCREDIBLE BREADTH OF HIS WORK OVER MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THAT CREATIVE ENERGY, ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO MOVE THROUGH A CASCADE OF IDEAS THAT DIDN'T WORK UNTIL HE FOUND ONE THAT DID, WAS PRIZED BY EVERYONE WHO COLLABORATED WITH HIM.

–DAN JURGENS

I ASKED KEITH ONCE, "WHAT'S THE SECRET TO YOUR CAREER LONGEVITY?" HE SAID, "FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND OWN THAT LANE. WHEN PUBLISHERS WANT IT, THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO YOU." THE THING IS, KEITH DIDN'T OWN A LANE. HE OWNED THE WHOLE HIGHWAY. I MISS YOU, MY FRIEND.

–MARK WAID

KEITH HAD THE MOST FERTILE AND IMAGINATIVE MIND IN COMICS IN MY GENERATION. IT WAS A DELIGHT TO BUILD OUT THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE WITH HIM.

–PAUL LEVITZ

I OWE MUCH OF WHAT I HAVE TODAY TO KEITH. WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE I WAS THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DRAWING LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ART IN FANZINES. HE CALLED ME THE "LITTLE SISTER I NEVER WANTED." BUT IF I HAD WANTED ANOTHER BROTHER, KEITH WOULD HAVE BEEN EVERYTHING I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR.

–COLLEEN DORAN

HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT KEITH WOULD BE ANNOYED BY THIS WHOLE THING, BUT IF ANYONE TRULY DESERVED PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FROM THE COMICS INDUSTRY, IT WOULD BE KEITH. I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT.

–DAN DiDIO

KEITH WAS A MASTER STORYTELLER, FULL OF GOOD IDEAS, AND WHEN HE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT HE WOULD FIGHT THE BATTLE UNTIL THE END. THERE ARE NO MORE BATTLES TO FIGHT, MY FRIEND.

–BRIAN MILLER

ANDY HELFER ONCE TOLD ME, "IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FIRST IDEA KEITH GIVES YOU, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL PITCH YOU ANOTHER ONE. AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT ONE, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK FROM KEITH." KEITH WAS BRIGHT AND RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH THAT I ALWAYS TOOK THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK.

–JOEY CAVALIERI

KEITH WAS THE YOUNGEST GRUMPY OLD MAN I EVER MET–AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I LOVED HIM. THE HOURS, DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS WE SPENT WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER WERE SOME OF THE BEST IN MY TIME AT DC. WITH THE FACILITY OF A KURTZMAN, KEITH COULD PENCIL-SKETCH A FULL ISSUE OF *JLA* IN AN HOUR. AS PART OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* CREW, HE WAS THE FULCRUM THAT BALANCED THE REST OF US, AND HE WILL BE MISSED.

–ANDY HELFER

I'M ALSO WORKING ON THE THIRD [*JLI*] OMNIBUS COVER, AND NOW, LOOKING AT ALL THESE KEITH GIFFEN CHARACTERS LOOKING AT ME, IT FEELS UNSURPRISINGLY MELANCHOLY. A WISE-ASS UNTIL THE END. MAY THE WINGS OF ANGELS FLY YOU ON YOUR NEW ADVENTURE, YOU MAGNIFICENT BASTARD!

–KEVIN MAGUIRE

KEITH POSSESSED AN INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE OF TALENT, HAD A FEARLESS TAKE ON EVERY PROJECT ASKED OF HIM, AND CREATED SOME OF THE MOST ABSURD, OVER-THE-TOP, AND HILARIOUS CHARACTERS EVER. TRULY A MASTER OF EVERY FACET OF THE CRAFT OF MAKING COMICS AND A CREATIVE DYNAMO LIKE NO OTHER.

–JIM LEE

WHEN I WAS A KID, KEITH GIFFEN WAS MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CREATOR. IT WAS HIS WORK ON *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* AND *JUSTICE LEAGUE* THAT FIRST CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, AND THEN IT WAS HIS EVER-EVOLVING ART STYLE THAT SHOWED A KID LIKE ME THAT YOU COULD HAVE A WEIRD DRAWING STYLE AND STILL MAKE GOOD COMICS. KEITH'S CURMUDGEONLY STYLE HID A HEART OF GOLD AND AN ENDLESSLY RESTLESS CREATIVE SPIRIT. HE WILL BE MISSED. BY ME AND SO MANY FANS AND READERS.
REST IN PEACE, KEITH, AND THANK YOU.

–JEFF LEMIRE

Art by Kevin Maguire. Characters: Garryn Bek, Stone Boy, Manga Khan, General Glory, Andromeda, Heckler, G'nort, Blue Beetle (Jaime Reyes), Maxwell Lord, Ambush Bug, Lobo, L-Ron, and Keith Giffen.
Expanded tributes: dc.com/rememberingkeithgiffen.

BREAKING HEARTS AND FACES MONTHLY!

BIRDS OF PREY

"The team is perfect, both the creative team and the characters they assemble."
—The Beat

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WRITTEN BY
KELLY THOMPSON

ART BY
LEONARDO ROMERO

DC